Setting up of motels in Assam

876. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Central Government's consideration for setting up of motels in Assam to boost tourism in the State; and

(b) if so, by when the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Assam have forwarded a scheme for passenger-oriented wayside amenities at Jakhalbanda.

(b) The State Government of Assam have indicated that the scheme will be implemented in eighteen months' time from the date of commencement.

Foreign Tourists in Assam

877. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists who visited Assam during 1989-90; and

(b) what is the number of tourists who had applied to visit Assam and how many of these were not permitted by Government during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) According to the information available from the State Government 375 foreign tourists visited Assam during 1989-90.

(b) The relevant statistics are not available.

Gauhati Airport

878. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calcutta airport has not allowed Gauhati airport to operate as an independent flight information centre till date; and

(b) if so, by when Gauhati airport is expected to be allowed to operate as an independent flight information centre?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) An independent Flight Information Centre has been established at Guwahati airport with effect from 25th of July, 1991.

ONGC Scheme for Sibsagar Town in Assam

879. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a scheme for the beautification of the Sibsagar town in Assam with ONGC's finances in 1973;

(b) if so, what amount has been spent by ONGC for the purpose since then; and

(c) what are the details of projects already completed and to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) ONGC has so far spent about Rs. 62 lakhs since 1986-87 on schemes for socio-economic development of Sibsagar and its neighbouring areas.